# REVIEWS

## THE RIVALS

**Richard Brinsley Sheridan**

***Presented at the Goodman Theatre***

Revivals of the older plays are becoming fewer as the trend of the modern theater is leaning toward the production of the more modern drama. It was with a good deal of interest that the production of "The Rivals" at the Goodman was viewed.

The play itself is familiar ground to practically every man in college, but the presentation of it will offer a real treat to everyone. The characters in the play at once become real and vivid, and the skill of the eighteenth century school becomes apparent upon hearing the dialogue.

While the wording and the costumes may at first seem ludicrous to the twentieth century mind, the play swiftly envelops one in its enjoyable atmosphere, and the action is followed with the utmost interest. This comedy is light in theme, rapid in action, and filled with humor, proving that the antiquity of the play is no drawback to its presentation.

Mrs. Malaprop, who is remembered as the lady with the twisted vocabulary, affords much of the humorous element, for the words that she so inadvertently uses are so obviously wrong that the appeal of her lines is irresistible. However, the success of her part is closely connected with the other roles; their task is to use words of similar weight correctly and without hesitation. It is a marked feature of the skill of the cast that they are able to speak their difficult lines, both as to context and to accent, without stumbling nor delay.

The characters are all well portrayed, as is to be expected of most of the Goodman presentations. Mervis as the dashing soldier-lover, Captain Absolute, creates exactly the impression that Sheridan must have desired; it is this perfection in the cast that makes the play give every possible iota of enjoyment that has been written into it. Whether contrition or arrogance is the order of the moment, Mervis plays the part excellently well, save for an occasional snicker when the man fails to control himself. However, realizing that one cannot acquire the accent and actions of the period in so short a time, these slight slips can easily be overlooked in the general high standard of the acting.

It is likewise most amusing for the onlooker to compare and contrast the love-making of this period with that of today. Faukland, played by Neal Caldwell, is the lover who is distraught with doubts as to his lady fair, and is filled with a myriad of dissertations on lover's habits as he sees them. However, most any one of us would hardly be so upset as he, and thus are afforded another source of comic action.

"The Rivals" offers an excellent evening's entertainment, being light, witty, and fast; furthermore being a familiar play to most everyone, must serve to gratify that desire to see in action what one has read in print.

A. B. A.

## *L. L. Perry Speaks to Economics Class*

Mr. L. L. Perry, engineer with Sargent and Lundy, consulting engineers, spoke at Professor Freeman's evening school class of Economics last week. His topic was about the generation and transmission of power over short distances. If it is generated at a coal mine it has to be a high capacity load in order to be economical. Professor V. B. Teach will speak at the final lecture this week.

We regret to announce the passing of the mother of Professor August C. Wilmanns, Mrs. Henrietta Willmanns, and wish to extend our sympathy in his recent bereavement.

Armour Chapter of Tau Beta Pi held a meeting in their Chapter Hall rooms yesterday at 4:30 p. m.

## *Dr. Lee De Forest*

***(A Brief Biography)***

Dr. Lee De Forest, the Father of Radio, has had a very interesting and inspiring life. During his early years he was an obscure scientist, looked down upon by his employers as a dreamer, often in danger of losing his position, and more often practically penniless. Now, as his honorary title implies, he is the leader of one of the greatest industries in the world, lauded as the man who made radio communication possible, and respected as one of the keenest thinkers the world has ever known.

He graduated from Yale university and went to work for the Western Electric Company, soon gaining a position in the telephone laboratories. Here he soon became known as a dreamer, being more interested in working with an induction coil than with the work assigned to him. After some time with the Western Electric Company he realized that he wanted more time for his own work and accepted a position at Armour Institute as an instructor in the department of physics and electrical engineering. He received no pay for his work at Armour, instead having the privilege of using the laboratories for his own work. He also held a position at Lewis Institute at this time, teaching two nights a week and receiving a salary of five dollars a week for it.

While Dr. De Forest was working at Armour he and President Raymond became acquainted through a common patronizing of the Comet Restaurant. Here the two men would often dine together. Dr. De Forest was in the habit of having a ten cent dinner on weeks days and a twenty cent one on Sundays —when he could afford that luxury.

While at Armour Dr. De Forest worked with Professor Charles Freeman on the idea of wireless transmission and managed to successfully send messages for short distances, gradually increasing from a few feet to several miles.

When he and Professor Freeman had been at work for about two years, they were given the opportunity of reporting the Lipton yacht races at New York by means of their wireless transmission. Not knowing the deleterious effect of salt water on wireless work, they failed in their attempt and the race was reported by flag signals as it always had been.

The press was kind to them, however, and so covered up the affair that no one knew that they had failed. That failure only made Dr. De Forest work harder and made his ultimate success more certain.

Due to Dr. De Forest's work, the Trans-Continental Telephone was opened in January, 1915.

A few years later he opened a broadcasting station in New York but soon his license was revoked because the broadcasting interfered with shipping signals.

In 1920 he opened a station in San Francisco which broadcast orchestra programs almost exclusively.

His greatest work was the invention of the three electrode vacuum tube, which made modern radio possible.

Dr. De Forest also did a great deal of work in the development of the talking pictures and is confident that we shall soon have the system perfected.

His life, starting in poverty and ending in fame, always full of optimism no matter how dark the outlook, is an inspiration to all who know him.

W. H. R.

## *X-Rays Used to Test Business Products*

The uses of the X-ray in industry are increasing steadily. Satisfactory photographs are now made through four inches of steel, six inches of aluminum and through other materials in proportion to their density. . . . Automobile tires are photographed to determine the condition of union between cord and rubber. Golf balls are X-rayed to inspect centering of the cores. The amount of tetra-ethyl lead in gasoline can quickly be determined by radiography. A few shoe stores have installed fluoroscopic units to show customers how shoes really fit.

# FRATERNITY NOTES

### BETA PSI

The Smoker held at the House Friday March 21st, was well attended both by the actives and a number of alumni.

Friday was also the beginning of a week of probation for the following: L. R. Anderson, O. L. Staib, and D. B. Snapp.

### PHI PI PHI

On Saturday March 22nd, Gamma Chapter of Phi Pi Phi held a formal initiation for pledges: S. A. Carlson, '32, C. Mitchell, '32, J. Clayson, '33, C. Cruver, '33, and G. Hill, '32. A luncheon was served after the initiation.

Saturday night the annual formal Dinner Dance was held at the Knickerbocker Hotel, music being supplied by Grundy's Chicagoans.

### KAPPA DELTA TAU

P. Percy Fortnoy, athletic manager, has been busy preparing plans in order to produce some good baseball and tennis teams.

Two weeks have been allowed the pledges before formal initiation in order that they might have time to recuperate from the initiation held for them in the Indiana Sand Dunes, Saturday, March 22nd.

### TRIANGLE

The initiates dance, which proved to be a huge success, was held Saturday, the 15th. Brother Bodenson has returned again after a brief confinement at home, making the chapter full strength again.

The engagement of George A. Petters, '29, to Miss Florence Du Hasek was recently announced by Miss Du Hasek's parents. She is a student at the University of Chicago and a member of Phi Beta Delta sorority.

### SIGMA KAPPA DELTA

On last Saturday evening, March 22, the actives and many alumni enjoyed the radio dance given at the house.

For the present, April 12, is the date planned for the annual Hard Times Party.

### DELTA TAU DELTA

Gamma Beta Chapter of Delta Tau Delta announces the initiation of the following: M. R. Beal, R. H. Frye, F. M. Gihian, E. J. Griffin, W. H. Larson, T. D. Luckett, D. W. Pearson, H. A. Pearson, R. A. Peterson, and S. B. Cone. The informal initiation was Saturday night, ending probation week, with the formal initiation three o'clock Sunday afternoon, March 23. A banquet followed at the House.

## New Checking System for Probation Students

This year the Deans' Office is sending cards around to the professors for students on probation in order to get the student's grades at the end of the first six weeks. This system has been put in effect this semester instead of having the students taking slips around to the professors. These cards will also be given out at the end of the twelve weeks, in order to get information that will assist the Deans in aiding each student.

Mr. M. L. Helbrun is offering a prize of $100 on the class A and B archeology VI project in memory of his father, William Helbrun. The esquisse for this problem will be, Saturday, March 22. The subject will probably be on Venitian Renaisance period.

Phi Lambda Upsilon, national honorary chemical engineering fraternity, will hold a meeting tonight in their rooms on the third floor of Chapin Hall.

There are still four tickets left for Doctor Protheroe's Welsh Male Chorus Concert at Orchestra Hall on Thursday evening, April 3. Anybody wishing to get them should see W. Manske, '30, president of the Glee club.

Despite a decrease of 5 per cent in total crop production, 1929 crops were worth $85,000,000 more than last year's, says the United States department of agriculture.

## *DeForest Speaks On Experiments*

*(Continued from page 1)*

but, in the period following the war, radio found days of hard going as there was nothing of particular interest to the people. The government no longer needed detectors and there was still a ban on amateurs.

In 1920, however, Dr. De Forest aroused much interest in radio broadcast, and opened a station in New York. Due to interfering with the Army and Navy signals, however, his license was revoked. He then repaired to San Francisco and organized a similar broadcasting unit which was widely acclaimed and received with much enthusiasm.

This was really the beginning of the system of broadcasting that we have today.

**Predicts Great Development**

Dr. De Forest predicts great success for radio in the very near future. Each year will see astounding discoveries and improvements. He states that the day will come when we will be able to obtain equally good and probably better reproduction from the cheaper sets then from the more elaborate cabinet types of today.

The radio tube companies in the last three years have employed 6,000 radio engineers in research, and the entire radio industry enjoyed a $600,000,000 turn-over in business annually. The vacuum tube has found use in many branches of industry, including television, sound pictures, theater light controls, metallurgy, crime detection, etc.

In closing, Dr. De Forest told how he had been forced to the decision of whether he should ally himself with some industrial organization or should strike out for himself along independent lines. He expressed the hope that his life, with its early privations and later success might be an encouragement to present day students in their own struggles both during and after their school days.

## *Rivetless Ship Now Under Test*

A young man's idea of a rivetless ship of steel is partially realized and ready for tests that will prove success or failure.

The Carolinian, first rivetless, self-propelled steamship in American maritime history, awaits only favorable weather for speed trials and tests on the Atlantic Ocean before being placed in service.

Richard F. Smith is the builder. Reared in the environment of the shipyards at Newport News, Virginia, Smith for years had dreamed of an all-welded ship. Two years ago his plans were completed and he brought his idea to Charles V. Boykin, vice-president of the Charleston Dry Dock & Machine Company, who decided to try the idea.

The keel was laid on June 1, 1929, and amid secrecy the work began. Nothing of the nature of the ship was divulged until patents protecting it in this and foreign countries had been obtained.

While the legal phases necessary to obtain patents were going forward, the hull of the ship rose, not with the rat-tat-tat of the pneumatic hammer, but with the hiss of the electric welding apparatus singing the song of industry.

The Carolinian slid from the ways on February 14, in the presence of navy and civilian experts, who predict that she will come through the trials with flying colors. After the tests the Carolinian will be placed in the coastwise trade from Elizabeth, North Carolina.

A saving of 20 per cent in weight and 25 per cent in construction costs was accomplished by the Smith method, drydock officials said. Mr. Boykin said he had found that a welded ship had greater cargo capacity, due to the absence of rivets and bolts. Only 8,000 pounds of electric welding was necessary, as compared with 28,000 pounds of rivets used in a vessel of similar size.

## New Thermometer for Steel Industry

Discovery of a substitute for the thermometer, a photo-electric eye that literally "sees" temperature, was announced recently.

It is not a universal substitute, but another industrial specialist, a robot said to do one important thing in steel manufacture never before possible.

It looks on white-hot steel and reads instantly to a fraction of a degree the searing heat of thousands of degrees, but is no good for the back porch on a hot day, for it does not work below 1,000 degrees.

The eye was explained to the American Electric Railway Association at the Westinghouse Lighting Institute by J. V. Breisky, research engineer of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company.

Because of uncertainty in present methods of determining the temperatures of molten steel he explained a certain percentage turns out inferior, and is scrapped, the loss being sufficient to erect a score of Chrysler buildings annually. The practiced human eye has furnished the only generally workable method of estimating the steel temperature from its glow.

Even the thermocouple, a pair of wires that can be thrust into the hottest steel and that will record the temperature to within hundredths of one degree was not efficient because it required seven to eight minutes for a reading.

That is too slow; the photo-electric eye operates as fast as sight, its measuring stick being the light emitted from the glowing metal. It runs a meter calibrated in degrees of temperature, and registers changes when the human eye can scarcely see a difference in the color of the glow.

## Armour Represented by Deans at Meeting

Deans Penn and Palmer attended the annual meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools held last Friday night, March 21.

Professor W. C. Wichendsen, president of the Case School of Applied Science at Cleveland, Ohio, was the principal speaker of the evening.

The North Central Association is made up of all the recognized schools in the central part of the country and to a certain extent controls the requirements and standards of those schools which are its members. Recently Crane College, Bradley Tech, and Iowa Wesleyan were expelled from membership.

## Drawings on Display at Art Institute

The first set of drawings sent by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture are now on exhibit at the Burnham Library of the Art Institute. The designs are from the Universities of Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Yale, Cornell, Syracuse, Harvard, Georgia Tech., Pennsylvania State College and the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The next set will include drawings from Armour, University Southern California and numerous other universities that are members of the association.